

April 1992

From Your Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain

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Letters



Dear Editor,

I was interested to see the "Library Bestsellers" in the last issue of *Against the Grain*. I was amazed at the number of trade titles and, though it might get me in trouble with some of my clients, I wonder if you've thought of asking some of the book jobbers out there how many of those bestselling titles were treated by Approval Plans. How about it?

Lyman Newlin
(Book Trade Counsellor)

Editor's comment — What an interesting question? Any takers out there?

Dear Editor,

Recently, we have been hearing about a new spate of publishers who require prepayment. Many of them have poor track records of actually delivering the material once it is

ordered and paid for. As someone who worked for a bookseller for many years, I want to warn librarians of the practice of prepaying orders to questionable publishers.

If a library has a request from a publisher to prepay or if prepayment is indicated in printed sources like *Books in Print*, libraries should remember that their jobber can be an excellent source of information in this regard. At the very least, jobbers will be able to give information as to whether a publisher should be prepaid.

Fred Gullette
Book News
5600 NE Hassalo Street
Portland, OR 97213

* Notice of Error in Last Issue *

Please note that we goofed up! Christine Lamb is with The Faxon Company as Director of Publisher Services. Oops. Sorry. Mea culpa! Apologies!

From Your Editor

Finally, the April issue is ready to go to the printer. I can't begin to tell you the things that can go wrong when one is doing a publication like this. All of a sudden, laser printers don't print. Fonts don't transfer. Graphics won't "pull in." Everybody calls each other stupid. Cars get in wrecks. People get sick. Kids throw tantrums. Still, somehow the whole thing gets done.

I thank all of you for your kind messages — in the mail, over the phone, and over bitnet and internet (yes, I have learned to use them both) — about the last issue of *Against the Grain*.

Still, there are rough spots. I goofed up last issue and gave

Christine Lamb the wrong position. At least it was in the right place. Sorry, Christine, I guess you have to get in the line with the people who are waiting to get at me with the wet tattletape strip. Plus, I got a note from Sandy Paul who says that she didn't like being called an "old standby" in the last issue. She suggests, instead, "not-too-very-old standby" in the future. How have I goofed up? Let me count the ways!

How about this for a parting quote —

"The first thing I do in the morning is brush my teeth and sharpen my tongue." — Oscar Levant

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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